

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 54

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the peace process
in Northern Ireland.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. MIKULSKI)
introduced the following joint resolution; which was read the first time

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the
peace process in Northern Ireland.

Whereas the April 10, 1998 Good Friday Agreement established a framework for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement stated that it provided “the opportunity for a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland with a police service capable of attracting and sustaining support from the community as a whole”;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement provided for the establishment of an Independent Commission on Policing to make “recommendations for future policing arrangements in Northern Ireland including means of encouraging widespread community support for these arrangements”;

Whereas the Independent Commission on Policing, led by Sir Christopher Patten, concluded its work on September 9, 1999 and proposed 175 recommendations in its final report to ensure a new beginning to policing, consistent with the requirements in the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the Patten report explicitly “warned in the strongest terms against cherry-picking from this report or trying to implement some major elements of it in isolation from others”;

Whereas section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (as contained in H.R. 3427, as enacted by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106–113, and as contained in appendix G to such Public Law) requires President Clinton to certify, among other things, that the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland are committed to assisting in the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Patten Commission report issued on September 9, 1999 before the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other Federal law enforcement agency can provide training for the Royal Ulster Constabulary;

Whereas a May 5, 2000, joint letter by the British Prime Minister and the Irish Prime Minister stated that “legislation to implement the Patten report will, subject to Parliament, be enacted by November 2000”;

Whereas on May 16, 2000, the British Government published the proposed Police (Northern Ireland) bill, which purports to implement in law the Patten report;

Whereas many of the signatories to the Good Friday Agreement have stated that the draft bill does not live up to

the letter or spirit of the Patten report and dilutes or does not implement many key recommendations of the Patten Commission;

Whereas Northern Ireland’s main nationalist parties have indicated that they will not participate or encourage participation in the new policing structures unless the Patten report is fully implemented; and

Whereas on June 15, 2000, British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Mandelson said, “I remain absolutely determined to implement the Patten recommendations and to achieve the effective and representative policing service, accepted in every part of Northern Ireland, that his report aimed to secure: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That the Congress—

4 (1) commends the parties for progress to date
 5 in implementing all aspects of the Good Friday
 6 Agreement and urges them to move expeditiously to
 7 complete the implementation;

8 (2) believes the full and speedy implementation
 9 of the recommendations of the Commission on Independent Policing for Northern Ireland holds the
 10 promise of ensuring that the police service in Northern
 11 Ireland will gain the support of both nationalists
 12 and unionists and that “policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is fair
 13 and impartial, free from partisan political control,

1 accountable . . . to the community it serves, rep-
2 resentative of the society that it polices . . . [and]
3 complies with human rights norms”, as mandated by
4 the Good Friday Agreement; and

5 (3) calls upon the British Government to fully
6 and faithfully implement the recommendations con-
7 tained in the September 9, 1999, Patten Commis-
8 sion report on policing.

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